

USSN: 10/072,575  
Attorney Docket No.: 2002B004  
Amdt. dated August 6, 2003  
Reply to Office action of May 7, 2003

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the claim amendments, Claims 1-13 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Applicant has amended Claim 1 consistent with the description at from page 9, line 13, through page 11, line 21. The description at page 7, lines 1-12, supports new Claim 13. No new matter has been added.

The Action mailed May 7, 2003, contains the following prior art rejections:

Claims 1, 6-8, and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,500,556 to Morris, *et al.* ("Morris");

Claims 1, 8, and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,092,452 to Hori, *et al.* ("Hori");

Claims 1-3 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,357,383 to Howden, *et al.* ("Howden") in view of U.S. Patent 4,032,692 to Birnkraut, *et al.* ("Birnkraut");

Claims 1-3 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Howden in view of Hori;

Claims 1-3 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Howden in view of Morris;

Claims 1-3, 5, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,604,322 to Reid in view of Birnkraut;

Claims 1-3, 5, and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Reid in view of Hori;

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Claims 1-3, 5, and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Reid in view of Morris; and

Claims 1-4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,367,112 to Park in view of Hori.

Applicant respectfully traverses each of the rejections.

Claimed skin layer (b) comprises an extrusion-grade ethylene acid terpolymer resin having a molecular weight of from 50,000 to 1 million. The claimed extrusion-grade resin is completely different from prior art coating-grade materials, as explained in detail by the description at from page 9, line 13, through page 11, line 21, of the specification.

The prior art, including Morris, Hori, Howden Birnkraut, Reid and Park, does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention. In particular, there is no particular suggestion within the prior art that would motivate a person of ordinary skill in the art to select the claimed extrusion-grade ethylene acid terpolymer resin as component of skin layer (b) instead of the prior art materials.

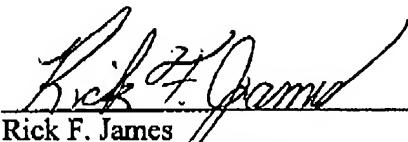
For the foregoing reason, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw each of the prior art rejections.

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Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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